

and make a few more dollars, heeding neither the comfort nor the lives of the American soldiers who lay sick unto death. Are the operations of the "System" so remote from our field of activity, after all? Are we always going to "stand for" any sort of imposition, corruption, injustice, exploitation? Will we never have courage to demand and strength to secure simple honesty as a substitute for graft?

Through the courtesy of the Board of Examiners we are able to present for your consideration a couple of examination papers (public records) handed in by graduates of a local medical school. The spelling is carefully reproduced, and bears evidence of the general illiteracy of the would-be physicians. Bacteriology and pathology are kindred branches and one should be reasonably justified in assuming that the degree of knowledge exhibited by an individual in one branch, would be a safe indication of his probable knowledge in the other. Candidate "A" received 93% in bacteriology and but 11+ % in pathology; candidate "B" received 86% in the former branch and 11% in the latter. The papers in bacteriology show a truly wonderful similarity in the matter and form of the answers, and even a casual examination of them reveals strong presumptive evidence of collusion between all the applicants from the school referred to, if not, indeed, of definite ante-examination knowledge of what the questions in bacteriology were to be. The examination in this subject was conducted by one of their own professors and the rumor was current at the time that the students themselves made up the examination questions. Comment seems rather superfluous.

The bill to establish a state sanatorium for the treatment of curable cases of tuberculosis, had a curious history. It was drawn in conference between the Tuberculosis Committee of our Society and a committee of the California Club, of San Francisco. A delegation of our committee went to Sacramento to see the Governor and also to have the bill introduced. The Governor objected to the proposed measure on the ground that the state could not afford to expend the money called for—\$150,000. The delegation was disheartened and returned to San Francisco where it attended a meeting of the directors of the Merchants' Association and discussed the matter. These gentlemen advised that the bill be introduced in spite of the Governor's objection, and that every effort be made to pass it; this for the reason that they recognized it to be not only a wise measure, but a very good and sound business proposition. It was, subsequently, introduced into both houses; in the senate by Ralston, where it became No. 706; in the assembly by Drew, No. 867. In both houses it was considered by two committees: "Public Health and Quarantine" and "Finance" and in each case

was reported with the recommendation that it "do not pass." Yet it passed the senate on March 4th without an opposing vote and the assembly on March 9th with but 6 opposing votes. Whether or not it will eventually be approved by the Governor and become a law, it is impossible to say at the time of writing, though there is some reason to hope that this will be the case. The special committee of the California Club, of which Mrs. Sydney Palmer is chairman, has worked very hard in the interests of this bill; its successful passage is largely due to her efforts.

[P. S. At the expiration of the time limit the Governor had not signed the Tuberculosis Sanatorium bill, and it is consequently dead. California could afford to spend \$365,625 for "tinkering" up the State Capitol, but did not have \$150,000 for a tuberculosis sanatorium.]

A very important question has been considered by the State Board of Medical Examiners during the past year. Considerable legal advice has been taken and there seems to be no reason to doubt the soundness of the decision reached.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

It is in regard to the status of "Alternates," the question being as to whether or not alternates can serve as substitute examiners in the absence of the regularly elected members of the board. Without dissent, the legal opinions taken are to the effect that an alternate has no standing whatever, nor can he serve as a substitute for an examiner at an examination. In the event of the death or resignation of a regularly elected examiner, an alternate is to be chosen to fill his place. This fact should be carefully remembered by the House of Delegates at the coming meeting, when the members of the board for the ensuing year are to be elected, and only such members as will faithfully attend the sessions and do their duty, should be elected examiners. It is true that service on the board as an examiner is not a particularly pleasant nor grateful job, but none the less is it necessary, if we are to secure for the public that protection which is its right, that only the best men should be elected to perform this duty.

THE FRIENDLY (?) DRUGGISTS.

Assembly Bill No. 1164, an amendment to the medical practice act which, if it could have been enacted, would allow any pharmacist in the state to practice medicine and surgery, was introduced at the instigation of the local representatives of an association known as the National Association of Retail Druggists, or the "N. A. R. D." This fact is just learned from the publication of the association, "N. A. R. D. Notes," which closes its rather boastful article with the following sentence: "We commend this bill to the consideration of the druggists of every state that have legislative fights on their hands and counsel them that at times it is wise and necessary to 'fight fire with fire.'" In this instance the "fire" that needed fighting was a vicious bill introduced by Cleveland, providing